



**MIAMI-DADE COUNTY  
MEDICAL EXAMINER DEPARTMENT**

Number One on Bob Hope Road  
Miami, FL 33136  
Phone (305) 545-2400 Fax (305) 545-2439



**MARTIN-EVERETT, Lauryn Patricia  
December 23, 2016...11:30AM**

**Case No. 2016-03847**

**CAUSE OF DEATH:**

Hypoxic-Ischemic Encephalopathy

**DUE TO:**

Hanging

**Kenneth Hutchins, M.D.  
Associate Medical Examiner**

*NOTE: The cause of death is based on the totality of the investigative data to date, which may not be included in the autopsy or external examination protocol.*

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**AUTOPSY PROTOCOL**

**ATTENDEES:**

**FORENSIC TECHNICIAN:** David Morcomb

**PHOTOGRAPHER:** Dominique Tomillo

**EXTERNAL EXAMINATION:**

The body is a well-developed, well-nourished, 159 pound, 5 foot 8 inch black adolescent female who appears compatible with the reported age of 16 years. The body is refrigerated, well preserved, and not embalmed.

The head has black scalp hair worn in braids and in a normal distribution. There is no traumatic scalp injury. The irides are brown. The corneas are clear. The conjunctivae are pale and have no petechiae. The sclerae are white. The external auditory canals, external nares, and oral cavity are free of lesions, foreign material, and abnormal secretions. The nasal bones are intact. The teeth are natural. The tongue is free of contusion or laceration. There is no buccal mucosal injury.

The neck is symmetrical without scars or masses.

The chest is symmetrical without injury, and the nipples and breasts are free of abnormality and palpable masses.

The abdomen is flat. The posterior torso is without note.

The fingernails are intact. There are no fractures, lacerations, or deformities of the extremities. The joints are not deformed.

There are no tattoos or needle tracks.

The external genitalia are those of an adolescent female. The external anus has no abnormalities.

**EVIDENCE OF MEDICAL INTERVENTION:**

Tubes protrudes from the right and left nostrils which are properly placed within the stomach. An appropriately placed endotracheal tube protrudes from the mouth. Intravenous catheters are in the left antecubital fossa, right groin and right wrist. Band-Aids are on the left and right arms. A urinary catheter protrudes from the urethra. Organ donation procedures consist of a 55 centimeters sutured midline incision extending from the sternal notch to the pubic symphysis and a 28 centimeters sutured incision extending across the abdomen at the umbilicus. There is a midline sternotomy.

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**EVIDENCE OF INJURY:**

A ligature abrasion extends from the right and left neck into the anterior neck. It slightly fades out on the anterior-left side. The ligature abrasion is located 9 inches below the top of the head on the right and 7-1/2 inches below the top of the head on the left. The red-black abrasion is 1 centimeter on the right extending to 2 centimeters in width on the left. A layerwise neck dissection reveals no hemorrhage or other abnormality in the anterior strap muscles of the neck. The hyoid bone and larynx are intact. There are no ocular petechial hemorrhages or oral mucosa petechial hemorrhages.

A wide, blue, patterned soft ligature is brought in with the body.

**INTERNAL EXAMINATION:**

There are no abnormalities of the anterior chest and abdominal walls. The ribs and clavicles are intact. The mesothelial surfaces are smooth and glistening. The subcutaneous fat layer of the abdominal wall is up to 2.5 centimeters thick.

The soft tissues of the neck, including strap muscles and large vessels, reveal no abnormalities. The hyoid bone and larynx are intact.

The 290 gram heart is lying in the left chest cavity and the epicardium is shiny with a moderate amount of epicardial fat. The coronary arteries arise normally and are right dominant. There is no evidence of atherosclerotic change within any of the coronary arteries. The chambers and valves exhibit the usual position relationship. The cusps of the aortic and pulmonic valves and leaflets of the mitral and tricuspid valves are thin pliable and translucent. There are no abnormalities of the chordae tendineae or papillary muscles. The myocardium is brown-red and firm. The left and right ventricles are 1.2 and 0.3 centimeters respectively. The endocardium is thin and glistening. The atrial and ventricular septa are intact. The atria are not dilated and are free of thrombi.

The upper airway and trachea are clear of debris and foreign material. The mucosal surfaces are smooth, yellow-tan, and unremarkable. The lungs are absent.

The tongue has no injury or abnormality. The esophagus is lined by gray-white smooth mucosa. There is no evidence of dilation, stenosis, or varices. The stomach is normal in size and shape. The gastric mucosa is free of ulcerations and is arranged in the usual rugal folds. The stomach contains approximately 200 milliliters of green liquid and some rice. The pylorus is not deformed and has a normal circumference. The small intestine has a smooth, shiny serosal surface. The large intestine has a smooth shiny serosal surface and no palpable masses or obstructions. The appendix is not identified.

The liver, pancreas and spleen are absent

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The pituitary gland is not enlarged. The thyroid gland has a normal size and shape. The parenchymal surface is tan-brown. The right adrenal gland has a yellow cortices and brown medullae of normal thicknesses. The left adrenal gland is absent.

The right and left kidneys are absent. The urinary bladder contains no urine. The mucosa is gray-tan and wrinkled.

The vagina is has a smooth mucosa and no foreign material or obstructions. The uterus is absent. The ovaries are tan yellow and of normal size.

Voluntary muscle groups of the anterior neck, chest wall, abdomen, and iliopsoas are symmetrical, firm, and red-brown.

The bones of the cervical, thoracic, and lumbar spine, the ribs, and the pelvis show no abnormalities.

The are no hematomas of the reflected scalp. There are no fractures of the calvarium or skull base. The dura mater and falx cerebri are intact. There is no epidural or subdural hemorrhage.

The leptomeninges are congested and thin and delicate. The brain is 1510 grams. The entire brain is swollen and softened and dusky red-brown. The cerebral hemispheres are symmetrical. There is flattening of the gyri and effacement of the sulci. The structures at the base of the brain, including cranial nerves and blood vessels are intact. The gray-white matter border is indistinct. The deep white matter is softened. There are no nodules or masses. The deep gray matter, including caudate, putamen, globus pallidus, and thalamus are normal in size, configuration, and coloration. The ventricular system is compressed. The hippocampal formations are normally formed and normally placed. The mammillary bodies are normal. The substantia nigra is not pigmented. The Aqueduct of Sylvius is patent. The cerebral peduncles are normal in size and coloration. The pontine white matter and fourth ventricle are without abnormality. The cerebellar folia, deep white matter, and dentate nucleus show no abnormality. There are no abnormalities of the medulla.

**AUTOPSY FINDINGS:**

1. Ligature abrasion, neck
2. Hypoxic-ischemic change of brain
3. Status post organ donation

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**TISSUES SUBMITTED FOR HISTOLOGIC EMBEDMENT:**

Heart, brain

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Kenneth Hutchins', with a stylized, cursive script.

**Kenneth Hutchins, M.D.  
Associate Medical Examiner**

**Date: December 27, 2016**